

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 4599

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UNGA, ML, GW, PFOR
SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR PROTEST TO MALIAN PRESIDENT

1. WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR SCHRAEPLER HAD AUDIENCE WITH
MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE DECEMBER 7 TO PROTEST,
UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, MALIAN UN DELEGATION'S ACTIONS DURING
RECENT DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA AND ON HOSTAGE ISSUE.
SCHRAEPLER GAVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT TO DCM DECEMBER 16.

2. SCHRAEPLER BEGAN BY TELLING PRESIDENT THAT MALIAN UN
DEL HAD TAKEN HOSTILE INITIATIVES AGAINST FRG AND GAVE
TWO EXAMPLES. FIRST WAS DURING DEBATE IN 4TH COMMITTEE
ON NIGERIAN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING FRANCE FOR MILITARY AND
NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. MALI DEL ADDED
FRG TO RESOLUTION. ANOTHER COUNTRY THEN ADDED US,
UK, JAPAN AND ISRAEL. SCHRAEPLER EXPLAINED THAT
MALIANS AT UN HAD SINGLED OUT FRG FOR CENSURE.
(SCHRAEPLER TOLD DCM THAT HE DID NOT THINK MALIANS
WERE TRYING TO HELP FRENCH BY ADDING OTHERS TO RESOL-
UTION.) SECOND EXAMPLE WAS MALIAN ATTEMPT AT UN TO
JOIN FRG RESOLUTION ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES TO TERRORISM
ITEM WHICH WOULD ENSURE DEMISE OF FRG RESOLUTION.
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SCHRAEPLER TOLD PRESIDENT THAT THIS HAD COME AS A
SURPRISE SINCE HE, SCHRAEPLER, HAD DISCUSSED THE
HOSTAGE ISSUE WITH SECRETARY GENERAL AND DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF MFA PRIOR TO UNGA. SCHRAEPLER GAVE PRESI-
DENT DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING ABOVE STATEMENTS.

3. SCHRAEPLER CONCLUDED BY TELLING PRESIDENT THAT MALIANS COULD NOT TALK OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE FRG IF MALI TOOK "HOSTILE" ACTIONS AGAINST FRG IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. SCHRAEPLER SAID THE FRG BELIEVED THE MALIAN UN DEL WAS HOSTILE.

4. PRESIDENT'S REACTION WAS MIXTURE OF SHOCK AND SURPRISE, SAID SCHRAEPLER. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO MFA TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF MALIAN INITIATIVES AT UN. HE HAD HEARD NOTHING. HE FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT FOREGOING HAD TRANSPIRED SINCE IT DID NOT REPRESENT EITHER HIS OR MALI'S POLICY. IT WAS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, SAID PRESIDENT, THAT AN "IGNORANT" HAD DONE SUCH THINGS. MALIAN POLICY, SAID PRESIDENT, IS TO FOLLOW THE OAU POLICY LINE AND NOT TO TAKE INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY AGAINST SPECIFIC COUNTRIES. THIS, SAID PRESIDENT, COULD JEOPARDIZE FOREIGN AID.

5. ON HOSTAGE ISSUE, PRESIDENT SAID MALI SUPPORTED FRG POSITION ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. HE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF NEED TO SEPARATE HOSTAGE ISSUE FROM TERRORISM ISSUE. PERHAPS, OPINED PRESIDENT, MALI HAD ACTED THAT WAY ON BASIS OF OAU INSTRUCTIONS SINCE MALI HAD BEEN OAU CHAIRMAN IN OCTOBER. AFTER SCHRAEPLER EXPLAINED LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO SCUTTLE FRG RESOLUTION, PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE ARABS WERE ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING.

6. PRESIDENT ASSURED SCHRAEPLER THAT GOM WOULD
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"CLARIFY" ITS INSTRUCTIONS TO MALIAN DEL IN NEW YORK.

7. COMMENT: SCHRAEPLER HAD, IN FACT, INVITED INSTRUCTIONS TO PROTEST AND EVEN ASKED THAT THEY BE STIFFENED BEFORE SEEING PRESIDENT. HIS DEMARCHE FOLLOWS SIMILAR DEMARCHES BY THIS EMBASSY AT ALL LEVELS AND IS ANOTHER STEP IN WHAT IS COMPLEMENTARY US-FRG EFFORT TO BRING MALIAN DECISION-MAKERS AROUND TO CONSIDERING OUR INTERESTS, INSTEAD OF GIVING FREE REIN TO INDIVIDUAL RADICALS REPRESENTING MALI IN INTERNATIONAL ARENAS.
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